

between animals and humans), research on livestock for development is central to some of the most important challenges facing us today. Determining how to balance different objectives and needs in livestock livelihoods, and how to do so equitably and sustainably, requires research by many different kinds of scientists and the engagement of many different parts of society.

Holding back livestock development in poor countries are inappropriate policies, scarce livestock feeds, devastating diseases, degraded lands and water resources, and poor access to markets. Research by ILRI and its partners is helping to alleviate these problems by developing new knowledge as well as technological and policy options.

POVERTY FOCUS

ILRI's strategic intention is to use livestock as a development tool, one that widens and sustains three major pathways out of poverty: (1) securing the assets of the poor, (2) improving smallholder and pastoral productivity and (3) increasing market participation by the poor. ILRI conducts research in three themes—Improving market opportunities; Biotechnology to secure livestock assets; and People, livestock and the environment—and two cross-cutting programs—Sustainable Livestock Futures and Poverty, Gender and Impact. ILRI also coordinates the Systemwide Livestock Programme of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

GOVERNANCE

ILRI is guided by a board of trustees comprising 12 leading professionals in relevant research, development and management issues. The institute is supported by the CGIAR, an association of more than 60 governments and public- and private-sector institutions supporting a network of 15 agricultural research centres working to reduce poverty, hunger and environmental degradation in developing countries.

FUNDING

ILRI is funded by some 80 private, public and government organizations of the North and South. The institute's expenditure for 2008 was US\$41.31 million. Some donors support ILRI with core and program funds; others finance individual research projects. In-kind support from national partners such as Kenya and Ethiopia, as well as that from international collaborators, is substantial and vital. This mix of generic, specific and in-kind resources is essential for the partnership research we conduct.

www.ilri.org

headquarters PO box: 30709 Nairobi 00100 Kenya • phone: +254 20 422 3000
fax: +254 20 422 3001 • email: ilri@cgiar.org

principal office PO box: 5689 Addis Ababa Ethiopia • phone: +251 11 617 2000
fax: +251 11 617 2001 • email: ilri@cgiar.org

Regional offices phone +1 650 833 6660 • fax +1 650 833 6661

ILRI
International Livestock Research Institute



INTRODUCING ILRI

International Livestock Research Institute

Better Lives through Livestock

The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) works at the crossroads of livestock and poverty, bringing high-quality science and capacity-building to bear on poverty reduction and sustainable development. ILRI works in Africa and Asia, with offices in eastern (Nairobi, Addis Ababa), western (Ibadan, Bamako) and southern (Maputo) Africa, South Asia (New Delhi, Hyderabad, Guwahati), Southeast Asia (Bangkok, Jakarta, Vientiane, Hanoi) and East Asia (Beijing).

ILRI is a non-profit-making and non-governmental organization with headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, and a second principal campus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We employ nearly 700 staff from about 34 countries. About 80 staff are recruited through international competitions and represent some 30 disciplines. More than 600 staff are nationally recruited, largely from Kenya and Ethiopia.

PARTNERSHIPS

All ILRI work is conducted in extensive and strategic partnerships that facilitate and add value to the contribution of many other players in livestock research for development work. ILRI employs an innovation systems approach to enhance the effectiveness of its research. We believe fundamental change in culture and process must complement changes in technologies to support innovations at all levels, from individual livestock keepers to national and international decision-makers.

WHY LIVESTOCK RESEARCH FOR THE POOR?

Farm animals are an ancient, vital and renewable natural resource. Throughout the developing world, they are means for hundreds of millions of people to escape absolute poverty. Livestock in developing countries contribute up to 80 percent of agricultural gross domestic product; nearly 1 billion rural poor people rely on livestock for their livelihoods. Globally, livestock are becoming agriculture’s most economically important subsector, with demand in developing countries for animal foods projected to double over the next 20 years. The ongoing ‘livestock revolution’ offers many of the world’s poor a pathway out of poverty.

Livestock not only provide poor people with food, income, traction and fertilizer but also act as catalysts that transform subsistence farming into income-generating enterprises, allowing poor households to join the market economy.

Livestock sustain most forms of agricultural intensification—from the Sahelian rangelands of West Africa to the mixed smallholdings in the highlands of East Africa and the drylands of southern Africa to highly intensified wheat production in South Asia and rice production in Southeast Asia.

Because domesticated animals of one kind or another are a vital resource of poor people practicing virtually every farming system in every agro-ecological zone in the world, and because animals play a key role in such global issues as climate change (largely through their production of methane, a greenhouse gas) and disease transmission (more than 60% of all human diseases, and 60-75% of all emerging human diseases, are passed

